



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Jack Dalrymple
President
North Dakota Senate
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Senate Bill 2018

Dear President Dalrymple:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have vetoed Section 24 of Senate Bill 2018 and returned it to the Senate.

Section 24 unnecessarily duplicates studies and analyses already done by the Department of Commerce and independent economists. The Department of Commerce conducted an external study that covered similar information proposed in this section during the current biennium and will do another study next biennium. In fact, Senate Bill 2018 already includes a best practices review of the Centers of Excellence program, which the Department of Commerce will expand to cover the information proposed by Section 24.

The State Auditor does fiscal and performance audits of agencies and programs, but this legislation calls for an economic impact study, which is not a function of the Auditor's Office. The State Auditor would have had to hire an outside expert consultant to do the study, which is exactly what the Department of Commerce has already done and will continue to do. Furthermore, the legislation neither authorizes nor appropriates any money to the State Auditor for such a purpose. Finally, the State Auditor already has authority to audit any independent economic analysis commissioned by the Department of Commerce, which is the State Auditor's role.


Honorable Jack Dalrymple

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For these reasons, I have vetoed Section 24 of Senate Bill 2018.

Sincerely,


John Hoeven
Governor

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Received by: Jay E. Burzycki Date: 5/11/9 Time: 2:00 pm.